

REMARKS

Summary Of The Office Action & Formalities

Claims 1-15 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicants are amending claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 14. No new matter is added.

Claims 3-5, 7-9, and 14 are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant is amending the claims accordingly.

The prior art rejections are summarized as follows:

1. Claims 1, 2, 6 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roe, et al. in view of Matsushima, et al.

2. Claims 13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okazato, et al. in view of Wada, et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse the prior art rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

1. Claims 1, 2, 6 and 10-12 In View Of Matsushima, et al.

In rejecting claims 1, 2, 6 and 10-12 in view of Matsushima, et al., the grounds of rejection state that

Roe, et al. discloses a telecommunications or power cable that is structurally reinforced by incorporating armoring having one layer of wires (15) wherein the layer of wires includes steel wires (claims 1 & 6) and does not carry electricity.

Roe, et al. does not disclose each of the steel wires being covered in a layer of stainless steel (claims 1, 2, 6 & 10). Matsushima, et al. discloses a composite wire comprising a stainless steel-coated steel wire which has excellent corrosion resistance and strength. It would have been obvious to one skilled

in the art to use stainless-coated steel wire as taught by Matsushima, et al. for the steel wires (15) of Roe, et al. since the wire taught by Matsushima, et al. has excellent corrosion resistance and strength.

Re claims 11 and 12, the modified Roe, et al. cable discloses that the stainless steel of each composite wire directly contacts the core of steel so as to form a two layered structure.

Office Action at pages 2 and 3.

Claims 1 and 6 recite a telecommunications or power transport cable having a composite steel wire with a core steel and covered in a layer of stainless steel that defines a continuous layer of uniform thickness, density, and composition.

Matsushima et al., on the other hand, discloses a stainless steel-coated steel wire in which stainless steel tape is wound around the wire in helical manner and welded along the butted edges of the tape. This process clearly results in a composite structure that does not have a uniform thickness, density, and composition as recited in claims 1 and 6.

In view of at least the foregoing distinctions, the Examiner is kindly requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 2, 6, and 10-12.

2. Claims 13 And 15 In View Of Wada, et al.

In rejecting claims 13 and 15 in view of Wada, et al., the grounds of rejection state that

Okazato, et al. discloses a telecommunications cable that is structurally reinforced with armoring, the armoring being a tube (1) that forms a concentric layer of the cable, the tube having a steel core. Okazato, et al. does not disclose the tube having a layer of stainless steel covering the steel core. Wada, et al. discloses a composite product comprising steel as a base material and stainless steel as a cladding material. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the steel tube of Okazato, et al. by covering (or cladding) the steel core with a layer of stainless steel

as taught by Wada, et al. to provide the tube with a good corrosion resistance as taught by Wada, et al.

Re claim 15, the modified Okazato, et al. cable discloses the steel core being directly contact the stainless steel layer.

Office Action at pages 3 and 4. Applicant respectfully disagrees

The present invention is in the field of mechanical reinforcement for cabling. Wada et al., on the other hand, merely discloses the manufacture of stainless steel clad plate, and is far too generic (i.e., too broad) to have suggested the alleged modification to the cable of Okazato et al. Stated otherwise, Wada et al. would not have commended itself to one skilled in the art of cable reinforcement. Indeed, as Applicant has previously noted in the last Amendment, mechanical reinforcement or armoring of cabling is in the form of strands of wires that provide tensile support for the cabling. The manufacture, composition and assembly of this reinforcement, as well as its performance, are unique to cabling.

Moreover, the motivational rationale set forth in the grounds of rejection--to provide the tube with a good corrosion resistance--are not even present in the applied art. Wada et al. discloses improved corrosion resistance and toughness of plates by using stainless steel. The Examiner has not pointed to any teaching or suggestion to form the plates into tubular members for use in cabling. Absent such disclosure, the reference cannot reasonably be relied upon to argue that one skilled in the art would have been motivated to significantly modify the cable structure of Okazato et al. as alleged.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

US Application No. 09/448,606

Q56881

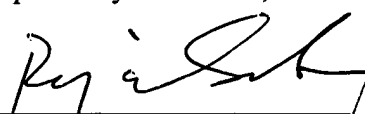
Moreover, Okazato et al. discloses that the pipe 1 may be made with a single metal or metal alloy. See Okazato et al. at column 4, lines 31-36. The reference makes no disclosure of any inadequacies involving strength or corrosion of the disclosed choices.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Submitted herewith is an Excess Claim Fee Payment Letter with fee.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



Raja Saliba
Registration No. 43,078

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 1, 2003